

Circ.: m. 79,479
S. 87,586Front Edit Other
Page Page Page

Date:

CPYRGHT Blind Homer

Senator Homer Capehart, the phonograph prince from Indiana, has simply not quite mastered the technique of the big smear, as practiced by his colleague from Wisconsin and others of like persuasion.

Thus Senator Capehart climaxed what was generally a bad week for Republicans with his efforts to indicate that Prof. John Kenneth Galbraith, Harvard University economist, was sympathetic to Communism and that he had been called to testify before the Fulbright Committee investigating current stock market trends because he is unfriendly to the Eisenhower Administration.

It was a seedy effort, and shake his jowls as he would, Senator Capehart remained pathetically transparent. In a television broadcast he insisted on reading, entirely out of context, a series of paragraphs written by Professor Galbraith in 1949 as part of a pamphlet issued by the National Planning Association, in which Galbraith pointed out the necessity, if a true appraisal of the Communist danger is to be gained, of recognizing the actual achievements of the Communist states. From this recommendation, surely a sensible one, Senator Capehart concluded that Galbraith is sympathetic to Communism.

Of course, it has long been standard operating procedure for some to regard university professors, and especially members of the Harvard faculty as potential, if not indeed actual, "pinko" material; it is a part of the climate of our time, and doubtless Senator Capehart felt he was on perfectly safe ground.

But the senator from Indiana neglected to mention that the pamphlet had been approved by the National Planning Association's committee on international policy, whose members include the President's brother, Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, and the secretary of state's brother, Allen W. Dulles, who is also, incidentally, head of the Central Intelligence Agency. The committee chairman is Frank Altschul, chairman of the board of the General American Investors Co. Inc., and a man as hardly likely to be "soft" on Communism as his associates, Messrs. Eisenhower and Dulles.

In effect, then, Senator Capehart was saying publicly that any appreciation of Communism that includes both the obverse and the reverse of the medal is invalid; that we should blind ourselves to the real facts, so long as they indicate, however slightly that, whether we like it or not, Communism has achieved—often by means too horrible to contemplate—definite ends. If this is the case, then the only relationship, it is as well that we are aware of it.